

The Naval wives welfare Association have also been active in assisting the next of kin of the deceased personnel in finding appropriate employment

(f) Does not arise

#### **Tribal Development Schemes of Spices Board**

4885 SHRIMATID K BHANDARI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Spices Board have tribal Development Schemes also ,

(b) whether the large cardamom growers of Sikkim, of which more than 80% are tribals, have been benefited by such Tribal Development Schemes ,

(c) if so, details thereof , and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes Sir

(c) The Spices Board is implementing a number of development schemes (both short term and long term ) for helping tribal growers engaged in cardamom cultivation. The schemes include - (i) Extension support to farmers for imparting technical know how to farmers on all aspects of cultivation processing and marketing , (ii) Certified nurseries for making quality planting materials available to them for replantation & gap filling, (iii) Supply of plant protection equipments like sprayers and dusters for ensuring timely pests & disease control operations, (iv) Supply of agricultural implements at nominal costs, (v) Providing special incentives for replanting old and senile gardens,

(vi) Supporting community irrigation & curing facilities by extending financial assistance, (vii) Supporting construction of water storage devices like check dams, ponds and wells by extending financial support

(d) Does not arise

#### **Export of Fish**

4886 SHRI HARIBHAIPATEL Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a great potential in export of fish from Gujarat particularly from Porbandar , and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost export of fish from the state ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) There are at present 15 seafood processing plants in Gujarat of which 4 are engaged in production of value added products. A processing plant in the private sector with Japanese collaboration is being established to process exclusively the low value fish available in the state to produce value added products such as Surimi. MPEDA has also proposed to set up toxicological laboratory at Veraval to help the seafood trade in the region to export material free from toxic elements

#### **Trade Protocols with RPA Countries**

4887 SHRI MOHAN SINGH Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the rupee payment area countries with which the Government have trade protocols for imports / exports on barter system or otherwise ,

(b) the norms / criteria laid down for imports / exports ,

(c) the items being imported and exported from these countries and the latest balance of payment position ;

(d) whether the Government have made a trade protocol with Israel also ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the items proposed to be imported / exported ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Protocols and Agreements providing for trade in non - convertible Indian rupees are in force with Czechoslovakia, Romania, Uzbekistan and Russia.

(b) Trade with the rupee payment countries is governed by the provisions of the Import and Export policy as amended from time to time.

(c) In case of Czechoslovakia and Romania, the trade, at present is in India's favour. Items of export to rupee payment countries include agricultural products, minerals and ores, chemicals and allied products, leather and leather manufactures, engineering goods etc., and those of import include machinery equipment fertilizers, crude oil and petroleum products, non - ferrous metals etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Involvement of HMT Officials in Smuggling and duty evasion cases**

4888. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR  
MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether several officials of HMT

have been found involved in smuggling and evasion of customs duty worth crores of rupees as reported in the Business standard, Calcutta, dated January 25, 1992.

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the persons involved there in ; and

(c) The action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR ) : (a) and (c). Customs authorities gathered intelligence that HMT were procuring their imported requirements through SSI Units eligible for concessional rates of imported goods through Front / Non- Existent firms. Hence, searches were conducted by Customs authorities in different Units of HMT Limited, and in all, six cases were registered against HMT watch Factories Goods totally valued Rs. 5.78 crores were also sized. In all the cases, show cause notices have been issued to the company and on certain officers of HMT Limited for their involvement in these cases. The persons involved are as under :

1. Shri Raju, General Manager, HMT Ltd , Tumkur, Karnataka .

2. Shri J.S.Prakash, Assistant General Manager, HMT Ltd, Tumkoor, Karnataka.

3. Dr. M.R. Naidu, Former Chairman and Managing Director, HMT Ltd.

4. Shri K.S. Gergan, Director (Watches) , HMT Ltd.

5. Shri M. Jagannath, General Manager, Watch Marketing, HMT Ltd.

6. Shri H. V. Lalit Kumar, Former General Manager, HMT, Rani Bah.